The petition of the persons seeking the contract on route number six, designated Norfolk, Va., as the American port; but Mr. Florence, who is always alive to the intorests of Philadelphia, substituted it for Norfolk in the bill which he introduced. The approximate value of American commerce new annually passing over this route is represented in the petition as \$35,000,000. The competition for the carrying of that trade ought to induce the establishment of the line, with or without a government subvention.

In the Senate, on one of the closing days of the session, Mr. Kennedy, of Maryland, introduced a bill to establish a line of mail steamships between the ports of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, Charleston, Savannah and New Orleans, in the United States, and Southampton. in Fagland; and thence in auxiliary steamers, carrying the closed United States mails for the Continent to the ports of Havre, in France, and to Antwerp, in Belgium-the departures to be four times in each month from the United States, in alternate weeks, from the ports aforesaid, and four bmes in each month from England.

Both these propositions will probably be renewed at this session, without, however, any very flattering pros pects of auccess.

POSTAL REFORM.

It is not at all unlikely that some plan will be matured and adopted at this session to make the Post Office Department of the government self sustaining. That is not to be done, however, by taking any retrograde move ment in regard to cheap postage, as was contemplated by Senator Hunter's bill, introduced at last session, which was, to raise the uniform rate of pestage for any distance between places in the United States, not exceeding three thousand miles, to five cents, and for any greater dis tance, to ten cents. No more unpopular piece of legislation than that could be indulged in; and yet, although the Senate did not act on Senator Hunter's bill, it did engraft it in the way of an amendment to the General Post Office Appropriation bill-an amendment, however, in which the House refused to concur, and which consequently facied. To make the Post Office Department self sustain ing it is not necessary to increase the rates of postage. All that is required is to abolish the franking privilege, and bave no deadheads by mail any more than by railroad. That will bring the receipts and expenditures of the Post Office into closer relationship, and besides that, it will save the general government at least two millions a year in the public printing line. Where hundreds of thousands of dotuments are now ordered to be printed for distribution by congressmen among their constituents, and to supply wrapping paper to the grocers of Washington, not a thou said would be ordered if the Congressman had to pay for their transmission to his district by post or express. It costs the government no less than \$7,000 a year to send Fither Bernhisel's public douments home to Salt Lake City The Secare, indeed, did go so far in the right way, last sesion, as to attach to the Post Office appropriation bill an amendment abolishing the franking privilege; but the House refused to concur in it, partly because it was a matter which should have been treated in an independent bill, instead of being tagged on as an amendment. The Senate did also append some very ridiculous amendments to the same bill, which the House also rejected. One was to have the Post Office advertisements of uncalled for letters published in the newspaper, not that had the largest circutation in the town or city, but in the one that would pub ish them cheapest. The other was to debar newspapers from getting their correspondence out of the Post Office except during the regular business. What Senator Collamer's object could be in trying to have such a rule adopted we do not know. It is possible that it may not have been intended as a fling against newspapers, which sometimes are allowed such privileges: but, if not, he has been fighting windmills in the bill be introduced, the first see

That post offices shall be open for the receipt and deli-very of letters, papers and mail matter for all persons at the same time, and no practice or arrangement shall be allowed by which any person or persons. for any consi-deration, can obtain their letters or papers carrier at said office than all or any others may receive their lotters or papers on applying therefor.

There is a very strong feeling prevailing in regard to the abuse of the franking privilege; and it is not at all improbable that it will be abolished this nession, as it has been abolished in Great Britain, where even the Queen has to pay the postage on her own letters. Its abolition would be a saving to the Treasury of not less than five

During the course of the last session the Committee or Commerce of the House of Representatives, of which Mr John Cochrane, of New York, is chairman, devoted as immease amount of labor and time to the maturing of measures calculated to benefit the commerce of the comtry, and although the bills reported by them were not acted open, their labors, it is to be hoped, are not to be without result. The revision of the tariff, with a view, b the imposition of a higher scale of duties, to increase the revenues of the country, will doubtless be attempted this session, but there is little prospect of any change being affected in that respect between this and the 4th or March next. It is said that the Secretary of the Treasur is of opinion that with a revival of trade the receipts of import duties under the present tariff will soon be adequatto the wants of government. He may not, therefore, re commend a revision. He estimates the receipts for the next fiscal year of \$50,000,000, and the expenditures at \$65,090,000, so that another loan will be required. He said to favor the imposition of a duty of twenty per cent on tea and coffee; but that would be a most enpoyelar im post I: the tar if is to be amended at all, it is supposed that in regard to many articles specific duties will stituted for the present ad palorem duties.

ABOLITION OF IMPORT DUTIES. Mr. Boyce, of South Carolina, is a firm believer in the policy of free trade and direct taxation. Under a resoluion of his a select committee was appointed last session to examine the question, and he, as chairman, presented a report on a reduction of the expenditures of the govern most the navigation laws, the existing duties on imports Sec. The question will come up incidentally, if not di-

rectly, on the adoption of the report. CODEFICATION OF THE REVENUE LAWS. The codification of the reverse laws, a work requiring great industry and research, and a thorough knowledge of the subject, was matured last session by the Committee on Commerce, and reported to the House by Mr. John Cochrane. This bill has been made the appeal order to the second Wedneylay in December, and even if it be not neted on then, it will probably be taken up and passed this session. The bill fills two hundred and eighty-ninprinted pages, and as it could not be very intelligently discussed except by those few who are familiar with the subject, we may presume that Congress will take for granted that it is a well connidered and proper measure, and pass it on faith. During the recess Mr. Cochrane has perfected the bill in regard particularly to the system of admeasurement of vessels. The present system of estimating the tonnage of vessels by an arbitrary rule of measurement offers at once a facihty to commit fraud upon the government-the actual capacity being sometimes more than double the registered capacity-and operates injuriously on the models of our marine. Mr. Cochrane proposes to have the registered tonnage correspond exactly with the actual capacity of the vessel, to be ascertained by an interior survey conducted on mathematical principles. He thinks that the change will show the aggregate tonnage of the United States to be from two to three times as large as the pre-

sent figures would indicate. PROTECTION TO PENALE EMBRIANTS. Besides this measure, so important to the com-

the country and to its revenue, there are other measures pending in either house affecting the fame subject more or less remotely. Mr. Cochrane reported a bill from the Committee on Commerce, declaring it felony on the part of a captain, master, or subordinate officer of any passenger ship to sedace or pros litere any female passenger on the voyage Seward inwoduced a similar measure in the Sonate, and the Committee on the Judicinry in that body reported back a substitute for it, declaring every captain, commander or other officer, surgeon or sailer, of any vessel bringing passengers to the United States, who shall, during the royage of such vessel, under promise of marriage, or by threats, or by the exercise of his authority. or by selicitation or the making of gifts or presents, seduce and have illicit connection with any female passen ger, guilty of a misdemeanor, hable to be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months, or by fine not exceeding five thousand dollars; no conviction however, to be had on the testimony of the female sedunsupported by other evidence, nor unless an indictment shall be found within two years after the commission : the offence; and provided further, that the subsequenmarriage of the parties seducing and seduced may be pleaded in bar of a conviction.

CONCERNING SEAMEN. The Secate Committee on Commerce also reported a bil declaring the owners, and in certain cases, the brokers, of American vessels liable in case of damages to any one of

mate. This bill, if enacted into a law, will have a salutary effect in checking the brutality of officers towards

SECURITY OF PASSENGERS ON STEAMERS There were some half dozen bills and amendments introduced into the two houses last session to provide for the better accurity of the lives of passengers on board of vessels propelled in whole or in part by steam; and the Committee on Commerce of the House reported, through Mr. E. B. Washburne, a substitute for the bills referred to it. Mr. Washburne strove hard last session to have this substitute acted on, but did not succeed. He will have it up again this session. It provides for the inspection of ferry boats, for the employment by them of licensed pilots and licensed engineers, prescribes rules for navigating rivers, canals and lakes, for using signal lights, , regulates the boats' pumps and signal lights of searoing steamers, and goes into a detailed system of legislation calculated to produce greater safety to passengers on

ENROLMENT OF VESSELS AND RECORDING CON-VEYANCES. There were two bills reported from the Committee on

Commerce in the Senate amending and defining the act for enrolling and licensing ships or vessels to be em-ployed in the coasting trade and fisheries, and for registering the same-passed Feb. 18, 1793; and the act of July 29, 1850, providing for recording the conveyances of vessels, and for other purposes.

Mr. Cochrane's bill for the codification of the revenue laws will probably render unnecessary the passage of these bills.

MARINE AND NIGHT SIGNAGS. The Senate Committee on Commerce also reported at the last session a bill to compet all sail vessels of the burden of twenty tons and upwards, navigating the waters of the Northwestern lakes-viz. Lakes Superior, Huron, Michigan, St. Clair, Eric and Ontario-and including the rivers discharging into, or bays and other navigable waters connecting with the same, to be provided with a suitable set of signal lanterns or lighting apparatus, to be ap proved by the supervising inspector of steamers for the district in which said vessel is enrolled or registered, un-

der the penalty of one hundred dollars fine and liability. The same committee had also referred to it a bill com pelling the owner or owners of each seagoing ship or vessel of the United States to provide such ship or vesse with a copy of "The American Code of Marine Signals." also with a complete set of Rogers' calm and storm signals, for the purpose of communicating phrases and sen tences from said code, and adopting same as the national signals of the United States, under the title of "The Ame rican Marine Signals." Provided that the price demandes by the author of said code should not exceed ten dollars for a copy of the same, together with the right to make use of his invention, and that no change should be made in said code without the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury.

LANDS FOR THE LANDLESS.

For many Congresses past there have been invariably one or more members in either House whose hobby was the passage of a measure giving homesteads on the public hands cratis to all who might choose to settle on them Perhaps it would be a more equitable mode of distributing the public lands than consigning them by the thousand square miles to scheming railroad corporations. But yet the homestead bill does not count one-fourth as many friends in Congress as a railroad land grant bill can alway command. And so little progress has been ever made in advancing such a measure. It has never gone further than the introduction of a homestead bill, its reference to a committee, and a speech or two from the member whose bebby it is. There were two such bills introduced in the Scnate last session-one by Senator Foot, the other by Senator Johnson. Both were to the same ge neral effect-that any public lands now subject to private entry at the rate of a dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, may be entered free of cost by any per son over twenty-one years of age, or who is the head of a family, and who is also a citizen of the United States, or, being now a resident, shall have declared his intentions to become a citizen; and that after five years residence and occupancy thereof—application being made on affidavit to the Register of the Land Office-a patent shall issue therefor-such homestead not being liable to the satisfaction of any debts contracted prior to the issuing of the patent, and no person having a right to enter more than the one-quarter section.

Senator Johnson's bill differs from the other in restricting the advantages of the act to persons who are citizens of the United States at the time of its passage.

In connection with the same subject, Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, introduced in the House a bill emeting that from and after a certain date (the 15th of September, 1858, was specified) no public lands should be exposed to sale by proclamation of the President until the same should have been surveyed and the return thereof filed in the Land. Office for at least fifteen years. The object of this bill was to prevent the monopoly of the public lands by capitalists, giving settlers fifteen years to make their selections Grow's bill may be pasted this session, as its fareness hi

homestead bills stand little chance of being touched. There are several other propositions pending, some of them of a private character, in reference to ettlers on public lands and on Indian reservations

THE PUBLIC PRINTING. There is not a subject that comes up regularly for dis ussion in either bouse that elicits more angry debates gives so much general annoyance as that of the public prin ing. It is constantly obtruding itself on the attention Congress, and its enormities are as constantly exposed. At the opening of each Congress it comes up on the question of the election of a public printer, for then corrup combinations are formed in every section in quest of the immensely profitable berth, and it is a far more trouble ome affair usually than the elections of all the other officers combined. It comes up also every time that there is a resolution offered for the printing of extra copies of documents. At the beginning of last session a special committee was formed to investigate this subject. report presented by Mr. George Taylor exposed the nefa ous system that existed of the printers cless seding or for a large per centage of profits to the actual pe-Mr. Wendell, and also of extravaguatly large orders uscless public documents being made, so as to enable Wendell to pay off the other cormorants and realize at come of several hundred thousand dollars for himsel To remedy this Mr. Taylor introduced a bill organizing a government printing bureau, with its regular staff of perintendents, editors, reporters, compositors, presumet, folders, binders and messengers. The bili was not acted on, but will come up at this session. If it were posto dissever the proposed bureau in toto from political in fluence, and from the baleful effect of executive patron age, by limiting the force in each department to a point full efficiency; and by making the selection of reporters and others depend upon the test of capability, and then making the offices permanent, the measure would be most desirable one, and would effect an immediate saving f millions annually to the government. But the danger is, that the moment the politicians would get it into the hands they would fill all the places with incompesent per sons, and convert the printing bureau into a freenwich hospital for political loafers, just as they do with the Cus tom Houses and Navy Yards. That difficulty, however might be obviated if appointment to office and the retain ng of office were not dependent upon the political complexion of the incumbent, and if the selection were left to some such experienced and practical person as Mr. Rives.

The Senate did actually pass at last session a bill on the subject of public printing, but it was merely amendatory of the former act, fixing the prices, &c. It contained however, one very necessary provision, and that was that when the same work was ordered printed by each House, the composition should not be doubly charged. unless such a length of time intervened as to render re composition necessary, and unless it was actually per ormed. The double charging for the same work is now one of the great sources of profit to the public printer The House did not act at all on this bill. INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The stack condition of the treasury, and the discredit nto which the system has fallen of late years, have not been favorable to the friends of internal improvement the shape of removing snags and sandbars, and other obstacles to the navigation of rivers and lakes. Neverthe less, these improvements will be pressed upon Congres this session with all the force that log-rolling arrange ments can lend them. Among bills of this character in reduced at last session was one introduced by Mr. But roughs, of Niagara, in the House, granting to the State New York, or to the parties having the legal right to re reive the same, pursuant to chapter 595 of the laws of the State of New York, ontitled "An act to incorporate th Niegara Ship Canal Company," passed July 21, 1853, for the purpose of aiding to the construction of a ship canal ound the fails of Niagara, in the said State, four million of acres of public lands, to be selected from the lands re maining ansold in the States of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and within one hundred miles of Lakes Supe rior, Michigan, Huron, St. Clair, and connecting navigable evers, and from the head of navigation on the St. Louis river, eighteen miles beyond the head of Lake Superio

Mr. Pugh also introduced a bill in the Senate for the

one of the provisions of which was the assignment by the United States to the State of Kentucky of all their interes in the present canal around the Falls of the Ohio river upon condition that the State of Kentucky should thence forth cause the said canal to be kept open for the passage of steamboats and other vessels of proper capacity navi gating the Ohio river at certain rates of toll, and that no toil should ever be charged on any steamboat or other vessel on account of the troops, property or mails of the United States carried by such steamboat or vessel.

LIGHTHOUSE BILL. Mr. Comins, after great trouble, managed at the close of last session to procure the passage by the House of the bill making appropriations for lighthouses, lightboats buoys, &c., and providing for the erection and establishment of the same, and for other purposes; but, for want of time, it failed in the Senate. It will probably be one of the first bills passed this session. CLERES IN THE DEPARTMENTS-SCHEME OF APPOR

TIONMENT. Some members of the House are very desirous of havng a better understood and more immediate right of appointment to cierical offices in the federal city than they now exercise, by means of their influence with the ap-pointing power. Mr. Robt. Smith, of Illinois—the same gentleman who originated the Fort Snelling investigationntroduced a bill last session, which was referred to and reported back by a select committee of seven, enact-

That hereafter all appointments of clerks and messen gers employed, or to be employed, in or connected with the several departments of the government, in the city of Washington, shall be appointed from the several States and Territories of the United States in proportion to the representation of said States and Territories in the House of Representatives, the District of Columbia being deemed, for this purpose, equal to one Congressional district; and also that, in making the selections to fill the aforesaid offices, actual residents of said several States and Territories and of the District of Columbia shall in all cases be selected and appointed, and, as far as practicable, such selections shall be made from the several Congressional districts of said States.

This is a ridiculous and impracticable scheme, and it would, if curried out, fill the public offices at Washington with the most incompetent and worthless men, who would be selected only for their political services. As it is, they are quite bad enough; and certainly it would not be for the interest of the country to have them worse. The true policy would be to pass a law directing the President to require from the heads of the various departments returns of all their subordinates, with full observations as to their requirements, habits of industry, and attention to business, authorizing him, from those returns, to advance and to set back or discharge-if he sees fit-the clerks cording to their merits or demerits, and then-after such changes, and with a rule regulating future promotion and appointments-declaring their offices permanent, or only to be vacated for cause and on report of misconduc to the appointing power. Such a rule exists in the public offices of all well regulated governments, and would do more than anything else, if applied thoughout the whole ountry, to put down the present demoralizing and degrading trade of politics.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYES. There were two bills reported last session in the House or the reform of abuses in regard to public documents One was reported by Mr. Winslow, from the Joint Com mittee on the Library; the other by Mr. Hughes, from the Select Committee on the Conduct and Accounts of the Doorkeeper. The first proposed to place all the public documents printed by order of either House in charge of the Secretary of the Interior, to be drawn from him or requisition by the Clerk of the House, Secretary of the Senate, &c .- thus avoiding collusion between the public printer and the superintendent of the folding room. The econd proposed to make the latter office-which is now in the gift of the Doorkeeper-elective by the House, prescribing his duties and responsibilities, and making the elerical force employed by him-with the exception of two permanent clerks-dependent on the authority of the Committee of Accounts. It will be recollected that last ession the Doorkeeper was dismissed for having filled the folding room with a needlessly large number of emoloyes, in disregard of the orders of the Committee of counts. These matters need reform, and as a couple of hours will suffice to dispose of them we presume Congress will attend to them immediately. There is also a bill pending-reported by the Committee of Accountsfixing the number and compensation of clerks, messen gers, pages and laborers for the House of Representa nves. There is much loosness about the employment an compensation of these persons, and the defect needs a remedy. The offices in the House, like those in the Senate, should be made permanent.

BANKBUPTCY LAW.

Mr. Benjamin, of La., introduced in the Senate, on the 5th of May best, a bill to establish a uniform law on the subject of bankruptees throughout the United States. It proposes to give the United States District Courts jurisfiction over the matter, and provides for the filing by the lebtor of a petition, with an inventory of debts and as sets, verified by affidavits, on which he shall be declared a bankrupt; but his debts must be not less than \$2,000. Its provisions are numerous, being designed to meet all the phases of the question. It ought to be acted on at

THE PATENT OFFICE LAWS. The Committee on Patents in the House, through Mr. ewart, of Md., reported, on the 16th of March, a bill in the nature of a substitute for one introduced by Mr. Tay or, of N. Y., entitled a bill to promote the progress of the call arts, to regulate the granting of patents for inven tions, and to repeal all acts and parts of acts heretofore

made for that purpose. view was reported by Mr. Evans, from the Committee or Patents and the Patent Office. The subject is too intricate and too little understood generally to give ground for the tellef that it will be disposed of, or even touched, this ses-

COMPENSATION OF UNITED STATES DISTRICT ATTOR NEYS, ETC.

An attempt was made last ression to systematize and fix the compensation of District Attorneys, Marsha's and Clerks of the Circuit and District Courts of the United ites. A bill for that purpose was reported from the Se ate Committee on the Judiciary, while in the House on was introduced by Mr. Phillips of Pennsylvania. As it is mere matter of fixing the fees to which these officers are entitled, a law on the subject will probably be passed this

WRITS OF ERROR IN UNITED STATES COURTS The Committee on the Judiciary in the Scuate reported n the 4th of March last, a bill authorizing the Judge beore whom a conviction was procured in any of the United States Courts to reserve any question of law for decision by the Supreme Court of the United States, and in the to respite execution of the judgment pronumbers. This measure is deemed necessary and important, and, as there can be no objection to it, it will pro-

FRENCH SPOLIATION BULL.

That long pending measure, to provide for the ascertain cent and satisfaction of claims of American citizens for poliations committed by the French prior to the 31st day of July, 1801, will be up again this session, it having been made the special order in the House for the 15th of January next. It provides for the appointment of three commissioners, to meet in Washington, and to decide within two years the amount and validity of all the claims to be made under the act, the whole amount being limited to five millions of dollars, and if the aggregate of the awards exceeds that sum they are to be paid pro rate. Most of these claims are bogus, and where any of are at all valid they are grossly exaggerated. It is supposed that fifty thousand dollars would more than com censate the losses inflicted on the occasion. PENSION BILLS.

Two of the Tennessee members in the House (Messes Savage and Maynard) made repeated efforts last session so obtain the passage of a bill granting pensions to the fficers and soldiers of the war with Great Britain of 1812, and those engaged in Indian wars during that period They did not succeed, however, and they are not very likely to succeed this session either, although Mr. Savage bill is made the special order for the second Tuesday in December. Those who sustained any injury in the ser vice from wounds or exposure have been already provided with pensions, and all who actually served have got land warrants. But these bills go further, and propose to give to all who were encolled for six months whether they ever saw service or not, pensions equal to the full pay of the rank they held. It would be about as sensible a proposition to give pensions to the men who have done service in the encampment ground on States sland for the last three months; and, indeed, they have suffered more hardship in that duty than minety-nine per cent of the soldiers of 1812. This pension law would tax the treasury to the amount of eleven millions a year our tainly, and probably to the amount of sworty millions, and would be the entering wedge for a great sensioning sys em like that of Great Bruain,

The American citizen requires no such inducement make him take up arms for his country, and this proposition must be repugnant to every high minded man who rolled himself for defence in 1812. It is got up by some the crew who should be maltreated by the master or improvement of navigation at the game of the Quie river, I scheming pension agents for plunder, and is supported by impresonment. They were tried and convicted—one of

some Senators and members of Congress for electioneering purposes.

In the Senate a bill explanatory of an act entitled " An act in addition to certain acts granting bounty land to cer-tain officers and soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States," approved March 3, 1855, was reported back adversely from the Committee on Pensions; and in the House a bill was reported by the Committee on Invalid Pensious to equalize the army, navy and marine pensions.

In addition to these, the Committee on Revolutionary

Pensions, in the House, reported back a bill introduced by Mr. Grow, to provide for the settlement of the claim of the officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary army, and of the widows and children of those who died in the ser-

of the widows and children of those who died in the service. This bill provides:—

That the officers of the army of the Revolution who were entitled to half pay for life, under the resolutions of Congress of the 3d and 21st of October, 1780; the 17th of January, 1781; the 8th of May, 1781, and the 8th of March, 1785, shall be entitled to receive the same, although such officer may have received in lieur thereof the commutation of full pay for five years, under the resolution of Congress of 22d of March, 1783; and directs that it shall be the duty of the proper accounting officer of the Treasury, when applied to for that purpose by any one entitled to receive, or his or her guardian, to ascertain what is due to such officer from the time he became entitled to said half pay to the day of his death, and to pay the same to the person so entitled to receive it.

This bill is founded upon a bad principle. No officer of

This bill is founded upon a bad principle. No officer of the Revolution would have been mean enough to take ad vantage of it, though surviving relatives may. They had the choice of taking half pay for life or full pay for five years, and to those who chose the latter it is now proposed to give, through their legal representatives, the value of that half pay that they declined to take. The pretence is, that owing to the depreciation of the national currency at the time, the certificates were sold at a large discount But that is a flimsy argument, because the government redeemed them at their full nominal value. If the Revolu tionary officers had been made up of such sordid persons as this bill contemplates for beaeficiaries, our indepen dence would hardly lave been gained in that struggle.

This bill is an insult to their memory.

There is also a bill pending, introduced by Mr. Davis of Massachusetts, to amend the law granting land to soldiers and seamen, so as to include those engaged on board private armed vessels regularly commissioned by the United States. This bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, and a motion is pending to reconsider the vote by which it was so re ferred.

COST OF INDIAN WARS. Oregon and Washington have presented claims against the general government or several millions of dollars for services of volunteers it repelling Indian aggressions These wars are usually manufactured by the volunteers during slack seasons for profit and excitement; but we suppose the general government must indulge the settlers and foot the bills. A new system of dealing with the Indian tribes, as well in reference to hostilities as to their ands and reservations, should certainly be initiated by Congress. EXPEDITION AGAINST THE MORMONS.

It is quite probable that some exciting discussions will be caused in both houses in reference to the Mormon question and the cost of the expedition to Utahs

INVESTIGATING COMMUTTERS. The proceedings of the Willett's Point Investigating Committee at last session have still to be passed on by the House. The committees to investigate the conduct and accounts of the late Clerk of the House (Mr. Cuijom) and the committee to investigate the conduct and accounts of the two last. Doorkeepers, hold over from last session, and are to have their reports presented and disposed of. The revelations of frauds that have come to light during vacation in reference to the passage of the Wisconsin and Iowa land grauts may possibly give work to some more investigating committees.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT LAW. Mr. Morris, of Pennsylvania, early in the last session introduced a bill in the House establishing an international copyright law, but it never came up for discussion or action. He proposes to extend the benefits of the existing copyright law to all authors and proprietors not citizens of the United States, who shall, within one mouth of the publication of any book, musical composition or work of art in the country of which they are citizens, cause the same to be printed and published in the United States. After the lapse of a month, without such publication here, they may be imported or printed by any per son. This act would make a good deal of work for Ame rican publishers, however little it might benefit foreign

CONSULATE AT ROSARIO, SOUTH AMERICA Mr. John Cochrane, from the Committee on Commerce, reported last session a bill for the establishment of a United States Consulate at Rosario, on the river Parana, in the Province of Santa Fe, of the Argentine Confedera tion, which was not disposed of.

The same gentleman also reported a bill making an ap propriation for strengthening and securing the found as of the United States barge office in the city of New York. These foundations are evidently very ricketty, and no dd be lost in having them

THE NEW YORK BARGE OFFICE.

IMPEACHMENT OF JUDGE WATROUS The Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives has had a great deal of trouble in several Congresses with the case of John C. Watrous, United States District Judge of Texas. The Legislature of that State has time an again passed resolutions calling on Congress for his impeachment on the ground of his having become corruptly interested in the results of important suits pend ing in his Court in relation to land grants in Texas. The Judiciary Committee at one Congress reported against his impeachment. At the close of the last Congress it re ported donnimously that he should be impeached-but then Congress expired, and the report could not be acted on. His case was again before the Judiciary Committee during the most of last session, and a great mass of ter timony was taken. The committee, however, was equally divided on the question of his impeachment. Four the members presented a report in favor of it, and four against. The ninth member did not attend the aittings of the committee, and therefore did not sign either report. The testimony was printed, and has been in the bands of members during the recess. They will have had sufficient time to imorm themselves of all the facts, and to vote intelligently for or against Judge Watrous' impeach ment. If the vote be for it, then it will devolve upon the Senate to try him. The trial would occupy weeks, if not months, unless the Judge would waive the oral examination of witnesses and let the notes of testimony taken before the Judeiary Committee be read as evidence. There is also some talk of petitions being presented for

the impeachment of a Pennsylvania judge

DEOPPED AND RETTRED NAVAL OFFICERS. Under the provisions of two joint resolutions passed a last session the President was authorized to restore to the active or reserve list of the navy any officers who were dropped or retired under the Act of February 28, 1855, to promote the efficiency of the navy. His authority in the premises terminates, however, on the 1st of January 1859. It is said that he has completed his examination and is ready to send his report to Congress. Most of the officorn, it is surmised, will be restored to active duty. Such re appointments as he shall have made will come before the Senate for confirmation. This will devoive some labor on that body. There is also the case of Commander Bout well, who was court martialled for an alleged disobodience of the orders of Commodore Mervine, and who was sen tenced to be be suspended. The President, however, re fused to sanction the finding and sentence of the Court. DISTRICT OF COLUMNIA.

There were several measures pending at the close of last session, and that will be brought up at this session, for the benefit of the city of Washington and of the Ustrict of Columbia. Among these are: a bill to establish an auxiliary guard for the protection of public and private propert in the city of Washington, a bill to organize a paid fire department in the District of Columbia, and a report rela tive to the aboiltion of tolls on the several turnpike road within the District. It is a notorious and at the same time a most disgraceful fact, that the streets of Washington city are more insecure and more infested with rowdie than even the streets of Bastimore. The police are inefficient, the criminal court of the District is a living liber upon justice, and unfortunately the Executive prerogative of pardon is too often extended to convicted criminals One of the most cold blooded murders was perpetrated at the very gates of the Capitol on a beautiful moonlight evening last winter. Two respectable citizens, both hold-ing government offices, were deliberately fired at with revolvers by two ruffians, who had no other motive for the than a fiendish thirst of blood Both fell. pierced with three bullets each. One of them lingered for months in agony and then followed to the grave his wife, who died from the shock of seeing the bleeding body of her husband horne home The other still lingers, suffering from his wounds. After some weeks, the murderers were arrested, and so desperate was their character and that of their associates in the city that a police officer who saw the occurrence actually refused to testify antil he was coerced by the threat o

murder, the other of an attempt to commit murder. The latter was sentenced to the penitentiary for eight years, the former to the gallows. And yet there were respectable persons found in Washington to take an interest in saving this ruffian's life; and so powerful were their appeals to the Executive for elemency that the gallows was cheated of its victim, and the condemned escaped with the punish-ment of imprisonment. It was from that and other similar outrages perpetrated about the same time that such efforts were made in Congress to establish a strong police force in Washington; but though there was no doubt as to the necessity for such action, there were enough members, from among those who thought that the citizens ought to provide their own police, and those who did not wish to give additional patronage to the Executive, to prevent the passage of the measure.

The proposition will probably be renewed this session, as well as the other two propositions about the Fire Department and the turnpike roads. There is also a bill pending in the Senate to enlarge the public grounds surrounding the Capitol. There is no limiting the expenditure to which this would give rise; for not only will the appraised value of the ground taken have to be paid by the United States, but all property holders for miles east of the Capitol will bring claims against the government for depreciation of their property, owing to the change of the road leading to it.

NAVY DEPOT ON BLYTHE ISLAND, ETO Mr. Seward, of Georgia, procured the passage of an act in January, 1857, establishing a navy depot on Blythe island, at Brunswick, on the coast of Georgia. He introduced, last session, a bill to amend that act, to make further appropriations to prosecute said object, and to make such improvements as are necessary for the repairs and construction of vessels of war. The bill was committed to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, a committee which, for matters outside of the general appropriation bills, is facetiously known as "the tomb of the Capulets." Mr. Seward moved, on the 5th of May, to reconsider the vote by which the bill was so referred-and that motion is still undisposed of. There is also a bill pending, reported from the Post Office Committee, providing for certain public buildings for post office and other government purposes.

SUFFRAGES IN THE TERRITORIES. A bill to regulate and make uniform the right of suffrage in the Territories of the United States was on the 10th of May last, committed to the same committee. Mr. Zollicoffer made a similar motion, which is also still un-

PRIVATE BILLS. The following private bills, which were on the calendar of the House, were not disposed of at the adjournment of

disposed of.

the last session -Bills for the relief of-C. H. Mason. Charles J. Ingersoli. Eliphalet Brown, Jr. Katharine K. Russeli eph M. and Mary R. Plummer Joseph M. Henry Taylor. Heirs of John Hopper Heirs of John A. Hoy Hector St. John Beatley Henricita S. Clark Mary W. Thompson. Heirs of Wm. York. Isaac S. Smith, of Syracuse, J. W. Nye (two bills). Heirs of Rev. James Craig William Walker. iliam Walker. eorge Cherpenning and Eitzabeth Woodward and her sers. Deut, Vantine & Co.

R. L. B. Clarke
Heirs of Captain Samuel Miller
Heirs of William Edmondston
Abel M. Butler
Hamsh Littel, and for other purposes.
George P. Marsh.
John P. Brown
Mrs. Mary Ann Heory.
Austrness of Hush Gienn. Assignees of Hugh Gienn Joseph C. G. Kennedy. William F. Wagner.
Joseph Hardy and Alton Long
Enoch B. Talcott.
Samuel A. Fairchilds.
Hall Nedson.
Elias Hall, of Rutland, Vermont.

Shade Calloway. Heirs of Nebemiah Stokely Representatives of Lieutenant Thomas Williams, a revo Heirs of Nathaniel Heard. Heirs of Nathaniel Heard.

Heirs or legal representatives of Francois Guillery.
John H. Wheeler, late U. S. Minister at Nicaragua.

Emira White, wisow of Captain Thomas R. White.

Edward N. Kent.

Legal representatives of Thomas H. Morris, late Posteaster of the city of New York.

J. W. Hiten.

aster of Sie ety of New York. J. W. Hilton. Prestyterian Church at Frinceton, New Jersey. Beirs of Major John Ripley. Heirs of Benjamin Wilson. Heirs of Dr. Benjamin Chapin

Representatives of Captain David Noble. M. M. Marmaduke and others. M. M. Marmaduke and others.

Wm. B. Dodd and others.

Eleazer Williams (the Dauphin, since deceased), sole heir of Mary Ann Williams and Thomas Williams, (reported from the Committee on Military Affairs).

Eleazer Williams (the same), reported from the Com-

ittee on Indian Affairs. Wm. B. Draper. Her, of New York. n of Busil Mignault, an officer of the

Capt. A. W. Reynolds.
Reland Fitzpatrick
Chamer T. Scafe, administrator of Gilbert Statter.
Franklin Peale.
Mrs. Eliza E. Ogden.
Cornelius Boyle, administrator of John Boyle, deceased.
P. S. Daval & Co.
C. Edward Habieth, administrator of J. W. Lewis.
Hull & Cozzens and John Naylor & Co.
Simon de Visser and Jose Villarubia, of New Orleans.
Allen L. Porter.
Lucia B. Adams, executor of James Adams, deceased,
one of the sureties of John S. Roberts, late Postmaster at
springfield. Ill.
Samuel H. Woodson.

Licia B. Adams, executor of James Arrans, decreased, one of the sureties of John S. Roberts, late Postmaster at Springfield, Ill.
Samuel H. Woodson.
John Scott, Hill W. House and Samuel O. House,
John Kelly,
Gideon Walker.
Representatives of Charles Porterfield.
Abraham Livingston.
Litzabeth Montgomery, heir of Hugh Montgomery.
Representatives of Captain Louis Marnay.
Representatives of Captain Pierre Ayott, a Revolutionary officer. efficer. Heirs or legal representatives of James Bell, late of

Chambly, in the province of Lower Canada.
Children of the late Mrs. Harriet de la Palm Baker, deceased, daughter and legal heirs of the late Colonel Frederick Weissenfils, of the army of the Revolution.
Heirs and legal representatives of Gerard Wood, deceased. Legal representatives of John Denman and George Legal representatives of Brigadier General Wm. Thomp-

Legal representatives of John Mandeville, deceased. Heirs of Robert Paul Heirs of Robert Paul, a soldier of the Revolt Orphan children of Colofel Philip Johnston. Heirs of Baronet de Klyn, deceased. John C. Sewell.

Mrs. Ambroise Brone, of the parish of St. Charles, State of Louisiana.

Heirs and legal representatives of Olivier Landry, of the State of Louisiana. tate of Louisiana.
Sgivestor Tiflany.
Lavingston, Kinkead & Co.
Jacob Thomas.
Kerr, Brierly & Co., of the State of Missouri.
Ephralia Hunt.

Ephraim Huet.

Mrs. Agatha O'Brien, widow of Brevet Major J. P. J.

Brien, inte of the U. & army.

Charles McCormick, Assistant Surgeon in the United ustion McCormick, Assistant Surgeon in the United es Army. gal representatives of Francisco Robaldo: rs. A. W. Angus, widow of the late Captain Samuel on, United States Nav., outenant John C. Carter.

Henry Etting. Eliza M. Archer and Directors of the Panama Railroad Com pany.
Captain John G. Tod, late of the navy of Texas.
Commander Thomas J. Page, United States Nav
Thomas J. Page.
Estward D. Reynolds.
Richard W. Mende.

rinnell, Passed Assistant Surgeon is the Navy. Pavid D. Porier.
David Meerle.
William D. Moseloy.
Legal representatives of John A. Frost, deceased.
William Hunter.
Legal representatives of J. E. Martin.
Anton L. C. Portman.
Townsend Harris.
Frances Ann McCauley.
George W. Lippitt.
Noah Smitt, late private in the army of the United States (reported with a recommendation that it do not pass).

James A. Gianding.
John Brest, a soldier in the war of 1812.
Mrs. Einza A. Merchant, widow of the late First Lieutenant and brevet Captain Charles G. Merchant, of the United States gray. Webster S. Steele. Emma A. Wood, widow of the late brevet Major George. F. Wood, of the United States army. Thomas Berry.

Jane Smith, widow of Francis Smith. Henry Snider of Jefferson county, Ohio. Jonathan Williams Swift.

Anthony Casio, a soldier in the war of 1812.
John Pickell, late a lieutenant in the United States as Joseph Nock.
Edward N. Kent.
Lydia Fletchor
Charles Knap.
Legal representatives of Samusi Pitts, deceased.
Legal representatives of five deceased cierks in Philadelphia Custom House.
James Paelan.
Charles James Lanman.
Suiters of the United States army.

Sutlers of the United States army. Astury Dickins George A. Magruder, with a recommendation that it John Robb

John Robb.
Moses Noble.
A buil to indemnify Henry Leef and John McKee, for legal scizure of a certain bark.
Extending the patent granted to Wm. Crampton, for improvement in figure and fancy power fooms, for severas from the 25th day of November, 1858.
For the payment of the claim of J. W. Nye, assignee Peter Bargy, Jr., and High Srewart.
To authorize the Commissioner of Indian Affairs adjudicate and settle certain claims against the Menonnee Indians.
Providing an increase of pension to Peter Van Buskin of Wastington, D. C.
Geanting a pension to Mary Blattenberger, widow

of Washington, D. G. Granting a pension to Mary Blattenberger, widow John Biattenberger.
For the payment of extra compensation to Easeh Talcott, for his services and expenses in recovering gveniment funds embezzled by Jacob Richardson, Authorizing Mrs. Jane Smith to enter certain lands the State of Alabama.

To provide for quicking certain land titles in the i dispated territory in the State of Maine, and for ot purposes.

Releasing to the legal representatives of John McS cased, the title of the United States to a certain ind.

and.
To amend an act entitled an act to authorize the re-tion of land warrants, numbered 3, 4 and 5, grant Congress to General Lafayette—Approved Februa 1845. cation of iana
by Congress to General Lafayette—
26, 1845
To confirm certain land claims in the Territory of N

To confirm certain land claims in E. Edwards to a c

To confirm certain land claims in the Territory of N.
Mexico.

To confirm the title of Benjamin E. Edwards to a c.
tain tract of land in the Territory of New Mexico.

To provide for the final settlement of the land claims
the heirs of John Underwood in Florida.

Granting bounty land to Abram Staples, heir at law
Isaac Staples, a Revolutionary solder.

To confirm to Wm. Marvin title to lands in East For.
To provide for the payment of certain California cam
To increase the pay of watchmen at the UnitedState
Naval Giservatory at Georgetown.

To continue the pension of Kathariae M. Hamer
Granting an invalid pension to John Purceil, Way !
Tompkins, Wm. Burns, of ohio, Cograd Daval, Abrama
Crum, Erastus Hutchins, Nathan Randall, John Piper,
Increasing the pension of Isaac Allen Maine.

Granting a pension to Mary Sherciff, widow of oh
Sherciff.

nercliff
Authorizing the collection and publication of cots

The following bills reported from the Court of Chin were reported back from the Committee on Claims in C House, with a recommendation that they do not a For the rebet of-

House, with a recommendation that they do not;
For the rebef of—
Jane Smith, of the county of Clermont, Ohis—
Lucinda Bobinson, of the county of Orleans, Vi.
Hanna Weaver, of Wayne county, Pa.
Ann Clark, of Madison county, Pa.
Ann Clark, of Madison county, In.
Mary Burt, Scota county, Ohio.
Esther Stevens, Van Beren county, Mich.
Mercy Armstrong, Gloucester county, R. I.
Nancy Madison, Fairfield county, Ohio.
Anna Parrol, Clinton county, Ohio.
Margret Taylor, Putnam county, Teon.
Laonia Tepton, White county, Teon.
Laonia Tepton, White county, Teon.
Laretta Wilcox, Wayne county, Mich.
Mary Robbins, Westmoretand county, Pa.
Tempe Connelly, Johnson county, Va.
Medinda burkee, Georgia.
Sarah Weed, Albany county, N. Y.
Mary Pierce, Cortlandt county, N. Y.
Mary Pierce, Cortlandt county, N. Y.
Ann B. Johnson, Henrico county, Va.
Hambah Medzies, Kentucky
Rebecca P. Nourse, Kentucky
Anna Hill, Monroe county, N. Y.
Sarah Eaton, Worcester county, N. Y.
Sarah Eaton, Worcester county, N. Y.
Polis Booth, Madison county, N. Y.
Piczbech Morgan, Rensselaer county, N. Y.
Phebe Polly, Ottego county, N. Y.
Nancy Ittig, Herkimer county, N. Y.
Nary Anne Hooper, Virginia.
Almira Reniff, Pennsylvania.
Sarah Loomis, New London county, Conn.
Mary Grant, South Carobina.
There are also several bills of a private charae

There are also several bills of a private character

the calendar of the Senate. Most of them will be fir disposed of this session. During the vacation two of the most respected mem of the House of Representatives paid the debt of na Geo. John C. Quitman, of Mississippi, died at his reside Monmouth, in that State, on the 17th of July last; and brother in arms during the Mexican war, and colleag the House of Representatives, Major Thomas L. Hari Illinois, died at his home, on the morning of Wedne

the 24th inst. Due honors will be paid to their mem in both branches of the national Congress. It is to be boped that our national legislators, our ing the vast amount of business on which they will to pass at this session, will set to work early, indu

ously and practically, and make the second session or Thirty-fifth Coogress of the United States a model for mitation of future Congresses. The Case of Body Snatching.

Yesterday afternoon the wife of the deceased Tho wey, whose body was found in the Medical

peared before Justice Weish with a view of makin affidavit as to the manner in which her deceased huse had been carried off, and the horrible manner in w she had found the corpse mutilated. The following is affidavit, as sworn to before Justice Welch: affidavet, as sworn to before Justice Welch:—
City and Gaerty of New Fork, as.—Eliza Carey, of said being duly swort, asys—That she is the widow of The Carey, deceased that said Carey died suddenly at the Carey, deceased that said Carey died suddenly at the Carey, deceased that said Carey doed suddenly at the classes. House, No. 418 Pearl street, in this city, that dep was then staying temporarily with a skele friend at No. 14 street, that the death of said Carey took place, as now is informed, about the 6th of November, and no or the 18th of November is staid for lower place, as the 18th of November is staid for lower and or or the 18th of November is staid for lower and replaced another hody, that deponent has reason to be found to the stay of the stay of New York, concerned in the cancer and disposition of such body, trace to law that such body was moved for purposes of a trace George Ruhne admitted to deconcer on Saturday man last that he and the said Francis Wheelan, for or or Jacobs of the deconcer of the results warehouse of Jacobs of the deconcer of the law of the said Francis Wheelan, for or or Jacobs of the deconcer of the results warehouse of Jacobs of the deconcer of the Park Street in the results warehouse of Jacobs of the deconcer of the Park Street in the results warehouse of Jacobs of the said street in the results warehouse of Jacobs of the said street in the results warehouse of Jacobs of the said street in the results warehouse of Jacobs of the said street in the results warehouse of Jacobs of the said street in the results warehouse of Jacobs of the said street in the results warehouse of Jacobs of the said street in the results warehouse of Jacobs of the said street in the results warehouse of Jacobs of the said street in the results warehouse of Jacobs of the said street in the results warehouse of Jacobs of the said street in the results warehouse of Jacobs of the said street in the results warehouse of the said street in the said street in the said street in the said street in the said s

last ha he and the soil Francis Wheelan had recover looky from 68. Pear street to the coding warehouse of Jan. Moline in Pearl street. New York, that said Kohne and Molines world in warenoom, that F. Loudou is connected with the Councer's office, and that Dr. T. C. Finnell has an office at No. 36 Grand street in said cuts, and depotent further states, that she was present at Bellevine lasticular threating the 48th day of November 156, and said was there shown a described by which she recognized as the body of her husband. Thomas there, who decarted this life on the 7th day of November 156, at No. 418 Pearl street, that depote not recognized at the body of her husband. Thomas there, who decarted this life on the 7th day of November 1568, at No. 418 Pearl street, that depote not recognized the hody by the left side of his fare, his month and this. Hermannel conductor were that the deals are

portent further may a thet the body was cut and dissigned, find portions of the flesh tuken out.

Francis Wheelan also made an allidavit, and stated that he was called to by lit. Finnell on the day of the death of Cavy, who requested him to remove the said body from No. 418 feart street to Fourteenth street, that he conveyed the said body to the Nickotal College in Fourteenth street, that he conveyed the said body to the Nickotal College in Fourteenth street, the tweether Third and Fourth avenues, and there delivered it over no Dr. Finnell shat shout three or four days after wards for Finnell street about three or four days after wards for Finnell street to see him, when he (Dr. Finnell desired to have the said soft again removal and taken to Believus Homptait. that he campided with the revuest, and that at the College Dr. Finnel street, while the correlated of bords, and one of his own cards to give to him the correlated of bords, and one of his own cards to give to the decid house as circuit, the body was properly adveres to the decid house as circuit at No. 418 Feart street, and subtled. George Ruine, in an Allidavit, also made before Justice Veish, states that he was present at No. 418 Feart street, and subtled. Witeclash to the ing the corrier of the deceased in the could, that he assisted to carry if down, and place it in a wagon, and sake the deceased was fully dressed in black clother, and that he deceased was fully dressed in black clother, and that the deceased was fully dressed in black clother, and that the deceased was fully dressed in black clother, and that the deceased was fully dressed in black clother, and that the deceased was fully dressed in black clother, and that the deceased was fully dressed in black clother, and that the deceased was fully dressed in black clother, and that the deceased was fully dressed in black clother, and that the deceased was fully dressed in black clother, and that the deceased when the said body was terribly disligured by being out to.

Dr. Finnell did not appear and make an affidavit, but a said he will do so to-day. The examination will commeace this morning, at eleven o'clock, before Justice Welsh.

Weish.

Oblitary.
The Hou. William Schire died at his residence in Augusta, Georgia, on the 20th inst., of paralysis, with which he was attacked some days since. Mr. Schier has held important relations to the people of Georgia. In 1825 he was elected by the Logislature Judge of the Saperior Cour of the Middle Grount, and held that position until 185 in 1830 he represented his county in the Logislature 1832 he was elected to Congress, and served during session of 1833, '34, and '35, and in 1836 was elected Governor of the State, and allied that office until 1837. Mr. Schiey was at one time the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, and for about twenty dry years from its organization, in 1822, the Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State, and was its first preseding officer, and among the object Masons in the State. He was President of the Medical College of Georgia at the time of his death. Mr. Schiey was born in the city of Frederick, in the State of Maryland, on the 10th of December, 1786; was educated in the academies at Louisville and Augusta, and admitted to practice law in Frederick in 1812.

1812, died at his residence in Brooklyn, on Monday, the 22d, at the advanced age of sixty-five. Gen. Verplance, was born at Coepmans, Albany county. He served in the war of 1812, and has occupied high official position in this

The report in your paper that I had been arrested on a charge of perjury is not exactly correct; it is true such a charge has been made, but I shall have no difficulty in charge has been made, out? such as the most of the refuting it and showing that it is an attempt to correct it sattlement of an unfounded claim. I have no fear that the confidence of the public which, during twenty year has been so liberally bestowed upon me, will be in supposed the most of th